STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA) ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

FOR THE CLOSURE OF THE 216-B-3 EXPANSION PONDS

REVISION 2
OCTOBER 1994



WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORMS [WAC 197-11-960]

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Closure of the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds. This State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist is being submitted concurrently with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) Closure Plan for the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds, which consist of the 216-B-3A (3A), 216-B-3B (3B), and 216-B-3C (3C) Ponds.

The designation "216-B-3 Expansion Ponds" refers the 3A, 3B, and 3C Ponds. The designation "216-B-3 Main Pond" in this checklist refers to the original pond that was placed into service in 1945. The "216-B-3 Pond System" consists of the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds, the 216-B-3-3 Ditch, and 216-B-3 Main Pond. In the context of the document, "site" refers to only the physical area covered by the pond system, whereas "Site" refers to the Hanford Site.

- 2. Names of applicants:
 - U.S. Department of Energy-Richland Operations (DOE-RL); and Westinghouse Hanford Company (Westinghouse Hanford)
- Address and phone number of applicants and contact persons:

U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office P.O. Box 550 Richland, Washington 99352 Westinghouse Hanford Company P.O. Box 1970 Richland, Washington 99352

Contact persons:

J. D. Bauer, Manager Office of Environmental Assurance, Permits and Policy (509) 376-6628 W. T. Dixon, Manager Environmental Services Westinghouse Hanford Company (509) 376-0428

4. Date checklist prepared:

October 1994

Agency requesting checklist:

State of Washington
Department of Ecology (Ecology)
Mail Stop PV-11
Olympia, Washington 98504-8711

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

A phased soil and sediment sampling and analysis program was completed to assess the presence and extent of contamination within 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds. Based on the results of the sampling and analysis program, a decision has been made to clean close the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds.

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Clean closure of the expansion ponds is being initiated to meet the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement), Milestone M-17-10 for June 1995 which requires that liquid discharges to hazardous land disposal units cease unless such units have been clean closed in accordance with RCRA. Following clean closure, the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds will continue to receive nondangerous waste water from the 200 East Area facilities.

Closure of the nearby 216-B-3 Main Pond and the 216-B-3-3 Ditch will be coordinated with the 200-BP-11 operable unit as a separate effort. The 216-B-3 Main Pond and the 216-B-3-3 Ditch will be decommissioned and wastes stabilized in place to minimize risks to human health and the environment. The work plan which includes the 216-B-3 Main Pond and 216-B-3-3 Ditch is planned for completion in Fiscal Year 1995.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

Following clean closure, the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds will continue to receive nondangerous waste water from the 200 East Area facilities.

Future activities related to this proposal include a RCRA facility Investigation/Corrective Measures Study (RFI/CMS) of the 200-BP-11 operable unit, of which the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds are a part. Final disposition of the nearby 216-B-3-3 Ditch and 216-B-3 Main Pond will be coordinated with the final closure of the 200-BP-11 operable unit

- 8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
 - This SEPA Checklist is being submitted to Ecology concurrently with the RCRA 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds Closure Plan, DOE/RL 89-28 Revision 2.
 - In 1987, the U.S. Department of Energy submitted the 216-B-3 Pond Preliminary Closure/Postclosure Plan to Ecology. This closure plan included the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds, the 216-B-3 Main Pond, and the 216-B-3-3 Ditch. An updated Closure/Postclosure Plan for the entire 216-B-3 Pond System, DOE/RL 89-28, was submitted in 1990.
 - A RCRA Part A Permit Application (Part A), Form 3, for the entire 216-B-3 Pond System was submitted to Ecology on August 1, 1986. Revisions to the Part A, Form 3, were submitted to Ecology in August and November of 1987, and a third revision was submitted concurrently with the 216-B-3 Pond System Closure/Postclosure Plan

in 1990. The Part A, Form 3, was modified to separate the three expansion ponds (the 3A, 3B, and 3C Ponds) from the remainder of the 216-B-3 Pond System in December 1993.

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NEPA documentation for the interim stabilization of the 216-B-3
 Pond, the 216-B-3-3 Ditch, and the 216-B-3A Pond (if necessary) has been completed and the work has been categorically excluded by the DOE from further NEPA review.

Additional environmental information regarding the 200 Area plateau and the Hanford Site in general can be found in Hanford Site National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Characterization, PNL-6415 Rev. 6, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, 1994, Richland, Washington.

—9. —Do you know whether applications are pending for government approvals of other proposals directly affecting property covered by your proposal?

No such applications are known to be pending.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Ecology is the lead agency authorized to approve the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds Closure Plan under requirements authorized by RCRA and Chapter 173-303 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Following clean closure of the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds, a State Waste Discharge Permit under WAC 173-216 will be required from Ecology for discharge of nondangerous waste water to the 216-B-3B and 3C Ponds.

No other permits are known to be required at this time.

11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.

The closure plan for the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds is summarized as follows.

• Soil and sediment sampling and analysis (This program has been completed). Vadose zone soil and sediment sampling and analysis was conducted at the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds. Analytical results were evaluated to define any constituents of concern, defined as constituents derived from dangerous waste disposal in the Expansion Ponds, that were above action levels. Action levels were established for constituents of concern based on background levels and health based limits and are defined as concentration thresholds that soil composition should not exceed for clean closure. Analytical results showed that dangerous waste constituents of concern were below action levels. Details of the sampling and analysis and the results are contained in Chapter 7 of the closure plan submitted with this checklist.

SEPA Checklist 216-8-3 Expansion Ponds Closure Page 4 of 16

Clean close the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds. "Clean close," as used in this context, means that no waste or waste-contaminated soil, structures, or equipment that could pose a threat to human health or the environment will remain onsite following completion of closure activities. When certification of clean closure has been accepted by Ecology, the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds will not be subject to regulation under RCRA or WAC 173-303. Following clean closure, the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds will continue to receive nondangerous waste water from the 200 East Area facilities.

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Final disposition of the structures associated with the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds will be addressed as part of the operable unit remediation.

The 216-B-3A and 216-B-3B Ponds each cover approximately II acres, while the 216-B-3C Pond covers approximately 41 acres.

- 12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.
 - The 216-B-3 Pond System is located approximately 3,700 feet east of the Hanford Site 200 East Area perimeter fence, on the 200 Area Plateau. The 216-B-3A, 3B, and 3C Ponds are adjacent to the 216-B-3 Main Pond on the east. The 200 East Area is linked to the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds via a pipeline completed in 1994. Prior to the pipeline the 216-B-3 Main Pond System was linked to the 200 East Area by the 216-B-3-3 Ditch and the 216-A-29 Ditch. Maps and plans of the area are contained in the RCRA closure plan submitted with this Checklist. The facility is located in the NE 1/4 of Section 1, T12N, R26E, and the NW 1/4 of Section 6, T12N, R27E of the Willamette Base and Meridian.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.

Flat.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The approximate slope of the land at the facility is less than two percent.

c. What general types of soil are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The soil found at the 216-B-3 Pond System consists mostly of a sand and pebble conglomerate, and pebble conglomerate. No farming is permitted on the site.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate the source of the fill.

No filling or grading is proposed.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, describe.

Significant erosion is not expected because of the flat topography, ---- dry climate, and soil type present at the site.

None at this time.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

The potential for wind erosion will be mitigated by wetting any soil surfaces and reestablishing vegetation.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Minor amounts of exhaust will be generated by vehicles used to gain access to the site and for groundwater monitoring.

b. Are there any offsite sources of emissions or odors that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to the air, if any:

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SEPA Checklist 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds Closure Page 6 of 16

To reduce the potential for dust generation during closure activities, water trucks will be available onsite periodically to spray effected areas if required and sprinklers will be used if any areas become dry.

3. Water

a. Surface

1) Is there any surface water body in or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

No natural surface water bodies or wetlands exist on or in the vicinity of the site. However, the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds contain fluctuating levels of standing process water.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet of) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

None will be required for closure of the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area that would be affected. Indicate the source of the fill.

No fill material will be placed in or removed from natural surface waters or wetlands.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No.

Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste material to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

b. Ground

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Nondangerous process and cooling water is discharged to the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds from various Hanford Site 200 East Area facilities. The ponds are not lined; therefore, this waste water eventually migrates into the groundwater beneath the facility. Discharged volumes in the past have varied from 7 million to 22 million gallons per day, depending on the operating status of plants discharging to the system. Natural precipitation, averaging approximately 6 inches per year, also accumulates in the unlined ponds and migrates into the subsurface. This nondangerous waste water is discharged directly to the 3C pond. This discharge rate is expected to average about 3.6 million gallons per day.

Small quantities of groundwater are withdrawn from monitoring wells. During the first year after completion of groundwater monitoring wells, groundwater is withdrawn from the wells on a quarterly basis and submitted for laboratory analysis. During subsequent years, groundwater is withdrawn on a semiannual basis, unless otherwise specified by Ecology. Before sample collection from a well, at least three borehole volumes of water must be purged from the well to ensure a representative groundwater sample is collected.

Describe waste materials that will be discharged into the ground from septic waste tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste material will be intentionally discharged to the ground as a result of closure activities.

The 216-B-3 Pond System is located approximately 3,700 feet east of the 200 East Area perimeter fence. The 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds receive nondangerous waste water from the 200 East Area facilities. This nondangerous waste water discharges directly to 3C pond.

Detailed information on the constituents contained in the waste water is contained in Chapters 3.0 and 4.0 of the RCRA closure plan submitted with this Checklist.

- c. Water Run-off (including storm water):
 - Describe the source of run-off (including storm water) and
 methods of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities,

if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

The only source of run-off that will be associated with the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds closure activities will be precipitation. All precipitation will be allowed to infiltrate the surrounding porous soil or mingle with standing water in expansion ponds that are clean closed and that will continue to be used for waste water disposal.

 Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Discharges to ground and surface waters are discussed in the answers to Checklist questions B.3.a.6, and B.3.b.1 and 2.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and run-off water impacts, if any:

The flow of water between the ponds is controlled by spillways equipped with overflow control barriers. Currently all flow is to the 3C Pond. Excess capacity is designed into the facility to prevent the escape of overflow water from the Ponds.

4. Plants

a.	Check	the	types	of	vegetation	found	on	the	site:

	_ deciduous trees: alder, maple, aspen, <u>ot</u>		
	_ evergreen trees: fir, cedar, pine, other	1	
	_ shrubs		
<u>X</u>	_ grass		
	pasture crop or grain		
	_ crop or grain		
X	wet soil plants: <u>cattail</u> , buttercup, <u>bu</u>	<u>lrush</u> , skunk	cabbage,
	other		
	<pre>water plants: water lily, eelgrass, mil</pre>	foil, other	
	other types of vegetation		
	-		

Standing water in the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds supports a variety of vegetation typical of a riparian habitat. Poplar, willow, and Russian olive trees grow along the edges of the lobes, along with cattail, bulrush, various small shrubs, and grass.

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?
 Not applicable to this closure plan.
- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

No threatened or endangered species are known to exist on or near the site. A biological survey has been completed for the 216-B-3

SEPA Checklist 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds Closure Page 9 of 16

Expansion Ponds. Additional information concerning endangered and threatened plants on the Hanford Site can be found in the documents referred to in the answer to Checklist question A.8.

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d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.

No further physical closure activities are planned. The last physical activity performed was installing the pipeline to 3C Pond, the area was backfilled and revegetated.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, <u>heron</u>, eagle, <u>songbirds</u>, <u>other</u> mammals: <u>deer</u>, bear, elk, beaver, <u>other</u> fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, <u>other</u>

Process discharges to the 216-B-3 Pond System have provided a source of water to nesting, wintering, and migratory waterfowl, as well as to many locally common mammal species. Birds commonly sighted in the area include heron, ducks, songbirds, and pigeons. Other animals seen in the area include deer, coyote, lagomorphs, and various small rodents. Goldfish and unidentified small minnows have also been seen in B Pond. Additional information on birds and animals on the Hanford Site can be found in the documents referred to in the answer to Checklist question A.8.

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The facility is not known to be used by any threatened or endangered species. A biological survey has been completed for the 216-B-3 Pond System. Additional information concerning endangered and threatened species on the Hanford Site can be found in the documents referred to in the answer to Checklist question A.8.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The adjacent Columbia River is part of the broad Pacific Flyway for waterfowl migration and other birds also migrate along the river.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

None at this time.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Gasoline, diesel fuel, and/or motor oil may be used to power equipment necessary for groundwater monitoring and the closure activities described in this checklist.

No.

of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Environmental hazards are not expected during closure of the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds. There may be some potential for exposure to hazardous chemicals and radioactive waste during groundwater monitoring and during activities associated with the operable unit remediation. These concerns will be addressed as part of the operable unit remediation effort separately from this closure plan.

Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Fire, ambulance, and patrol assistance might be required in the event of an unexpected emergency. These services are available on the Hanford Site.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

No further physical activities are planned as part of the RCRA closure action. Therefore environmental health hazards are not expected.

The RCRA closure plan and plans specific to closure activities (e.g., the health and safety plan for soil sampling) addressed specific training requirements and measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards. Identified training requirements included Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training. Decontamination solutions, cleanup debris, protective clothing, and groundwater monitoring well purgewater were collected and appropriately disposed of.

- What type of noise exists in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?
 None.
- What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

None expected.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:
None at this time.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- --- wa. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds are currently being used for disposal of nondangerous waste water from various 200 East Area facilities. Waste water is transferred to the system via a pipeline. The 216-B-3 Pond System is a part of the U.S. Government-owned Hanford Site, which was formerly used for the production of special nuclear materials and is now engaged in the management and cleanup of wastes associated with the production of those materials.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No portion of the Hanford Site, including the 216-B-3 Pond System site, has been used for agricultural purposes since 1943.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Project X-009, completed in 1994, installed a pipeline to bypass the

3A Pond and allow liquid effluent to discharge directly into the 3C

Pond and/or, if necessary, into the 3B Pond. In addition, there are spillways onsite consisting of corrugated metal pipes, steel-reinforced concrete overflow control structures, and stilling basins.

Earthen dikes separate the 216-B-3 Main Pond from the 216-B-3A Pond, and the 216-B-3A Pond from the 216-B-3B Pond. Piezometers have been placed in both of these dikes to track water table elevations beneath the Expansion Ponds. The piezometers are being plugged and abandoned.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

The two flow control and spillway structures from the 216-B-3A Pond to the 3B and 3C Ponds will remain in place as part of this closure action. Final disposal of these structures will be determined

during operable unit remediation. Details of this proposed work are in the closure plan submitted with this checklist.

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- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
 The Hanford Site is zoned by Benton County as an Unclassified Use (U) district.
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The 1985 Benton County Comprehensive Land Use Plan designates the Hanford Site as the "Hanford Reservation." Under this designation, land on the Hanford Site may be used for "activities nuclear in nature." Nonnuclear activities are authorized "if and when DOE approval for such activities is obtained."

g. If applicable, what is the current master shoreline program designation of the site?

Does not apply.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
 None.
- None; Does not apply.
 - 1. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

None; Does not apply. (See answer to Checklist question B.8.f.)

9. Housing

Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated?

Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

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SEPA Checklist 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds Closure Page 13 of 16

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
Does not apply.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Does not apply.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
 None.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
 Does not apply.

11. Light and Glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of the day would it mainly occur?

None.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No.

c. What existing offsite sources of light and glare may affect your proposal?

None.

-----d. Proposed measures to reduce or control—light and glare impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

None.

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SEPA Checklist 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds Closure Page 14 of 16

--b.----Would-the-proposed-project-displace any existing recreational uses?

If so, describe.

Does not apply.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Does not apply.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers are known to be on or next to the site. A cultural resource review has been conducted for the site.

-Additional information on the Hanford Site environment can be found in the documents referred to in the answer to Checklist question A.8.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

There are no known archaeological, historical, or native American religious sites at or next to the facility. A cultural resource review has been conducted for the site. Additional information on the Hanford Site environment can be found in the documents referred to in the answer to Checklist question A.8.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

A cultural resource review will provide the vehicle for necessary approvals required under the National Historic Preservation Act.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The site lies within the controlled access area of the Hanford Site and is not publicly accessible.

b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest stop?

Does not apply. (See answer to Checklist question B.14.a.)

SEPA Checklist 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds Closure Page 15 of 16

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

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None.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

None.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

- b....Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any:

Does not apply.

16. Utilities

 List utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

None.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None.

C. SIGNATURES

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

J. D. Bauer, Manager

Office of Environmental Assurance,

Permits and Policy

U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office

W. T. Dixon, Manager

Environmental Services

Westinghouse Hanford Company

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